

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /082 W
----- 106180

R 030940Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13614

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: MP RAISES ISSUE OF ACCESS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. A GROUP OF MP'S LED BY GEORGE ANYONA RAISED IN PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 1 ISSUE OF ACCESS TO POLITICAL DETAINEES SHIKUKU, SERONEY AND SIJEYO. ANYONA NOTED REQUEST OF 15 MP'S TO VISIT DETAINEES WHICH WAS FILED IN JULY WITH COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS. ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS OLE TIPIS DISMISSED ANYONA'S QUESTION ON GROUNDS THAT UNDER TERMS OF PRISON ACT COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS IS NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS DETAINEES WITH PEOPLE OTHER THAN MINISTERS OR ASSISTANT MINISTERS. HE ADDED THAT NO GROUP OF MP'S WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT MPS "ON THE STRENGTH OF RUMORS," AND THAT ALL DETAINEES WERE WELL TREATED AND IN GOOD HEALTH. THREE OTHER MPS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF ACCESS TO DETAINEES, BUT THERE WAS CLEARLY NO GIVE IN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

2. ANYONA RAISED SIMILARLY DELICATE ISSUE OF ACCESS
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TO IMPRISONED LADY MP CHELGUT MUTAI IN LATE OCTOBER.

THAT INITIATIVE LIKEWISE FAILED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS.

3. MPS IN GENERAL SUPPORT ANYONA ON ISSUE OF ACCESS TO DETAINEES. SERONEY, ET AL WERE, AFTER ALL, MPS AND PERSONAL FRIENDS OF MANY MEMBERS. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL REGARD ANYONA BRAVERY AS BORDERING ON RECKLESSNESS AND EXPECT HIM TO BE NEXT TO BE ARRESTED. AS ONE MP COMMENTED TO EMBOFF "ALL HE (ANYONA) HAS TO DO NOW IS SCRATCH SOMEBODY'S CAR AND HE WILL BE IN JAIL." ANYONA HAS SPOKEN OUT IN RECENT WEEKS ON VARIETY OF ISSUES AND ON ALMOST EACH OCCASION HE HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON WELFARE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES.

5. COMMENT: ANYONA STRONGLY AND OPENLY SUPPORTED KIAMBU KIKUYU INNER CIRCLE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MANEUVER, ALBEIT FOR HIS OWN REASONS. PERHAPS HE BELIEVES KIAMBU GROUP, WHICH CONTROLS POLICE, IS RELUCTANT TO ARREST HIM AND THEREBY LOSE HIS SUPPORT AS INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF KISII TRIBE IN ONGOING POWER STRUGGLE WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MOI.
MARSHALL

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